

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 19, and 20 are independent claims.

Claims 7-8 and 11-18 are allowed.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 19-20 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome objections. Dependent claims 2-4, 6 and 10 are objected to as being dependent on an objected claim.

Claims 5 and 9 have been cancelled herein consistent with the indication in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 6, 10, 14, 19, and 20 have been amended herein. No claim amendments were made for the purposes of narrowing the scope of claims or eliminating any equivalents thereof. It is believed that the amendments do not involve the addition of any new matter. It is believed that the amendments do not involve the addition of any new matter.

II. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

A first supplemental Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 has been filed concurrently herein.

III. CLAIMS 1, 6, 10, 19, AND 20 ARE AMENDED TO OVERCOME THE OBJECTION INVENTION.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 19 and 20 were objected due to the following informalities pointed out by the Examiner:

Claim 1; the examiner suggests the applicant review claim 1, line 10 to see if "predicated" should be "predicted".

Claim 5; the examiner is unsure if claim 5 further limits claim 1 and requests the applicant specify the distinction between the two claims.

Claim 9; the examiner is unsure if claim 9 further limits claim 7 and requests the applicant specify the distinction between the two claims.

Claim 19 and 20, the examiner suggests removing the word "scale" in line 4 of both claims to avoid potential antecedent basis errors.

(See Office Action, paras. 1-4, page 2)

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 10, 19 and 20, and cancelled claims 5 and 9 according to Examiner's recommendation, as noted above. Claims 6 and 10 were amended to revise the claims dependency as a result therefrom. Claim 14 was amended to correct an obvious informality. No claim amendments were made for the purposes of narrowing the scope of claims or eliminating any equivalents thereof. It is believed that the amendments do not involve the addition of any new matter.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 are in condition for allowance, and a notice for allowance is solicited. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone listed below.

Please charge any excess fees due and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0423.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Decker
Registration No. 44,056

Date: June 24, 2004

University of Virginia Patent Foundation
1224 West Main Street, Suite 1-110
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Telephone: (434) 924-2640
Fax: (434) 924-2493